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AUTHOR:

[illegible]

MESSAGE.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,
AUSTIN, 11th November, 1857.

Gentlemen of the Senate,

and of the House of Representatives:

In the month of September last, authentic information was received at the Executive office, that a train of carts transporting merchandize, from the coast to the city of San Antonio, were attacked, while peaceably passing along the public highway, a short distance above the town of Helena, in Karnes county, by a body of mounted men, disguised and armed, who fired upon those engaged in driving the carts, and killed one and severely wounded three others.

Information was also received, at the same time, of an attack made in Goliad county, about the close of July last, upon another party transporting merchandize along the same road, while they were encamped at night, in which one of the waggoners was severely and two others slightly wounded.

The person, who was severly wounded in Goliad county, was a native of the United States, all the others wounded in both attacks, and the one killed, were citizens of Mexican origin.

The communication of these facts was accompanied by assurances that combinations of men had been formed, extending through several counties, who openly threatened to continue such attacks upon citizens of Mexican origin, so long as they should continue to transport merchandize along that road.

Immediately upon the receipt of this information, I [illegible] a warrant for the arrest and delivery to the Sheriff of [illegible] county of those who had committed the above-named crimes in that county; and by calling upon the Peace Officers of [illegible] in executing said warrants, and bringing the [illegible] to justice, and preventing a repetition of such outrages.

A few days after wards, I repaired to San Antonio, to [illegible] a thorough knowledge of the facts in relation to the occurrence, and the extent of the alleged combination, and to ascertain whether any measures should be adopted to punish the authors of the outrages, or to prevent such occurrences for the future: while there, confer[illegible] with a large number of the citizens of Bexar and the surrounding counties, interested in the matter, and [illegible] the [illegible]

The results of these conferences satisfied me that the transactions of which I have spoken, probably by the [illegible] offenders, or perpetrators, in smaller numbers—the combination of the kind referred to, did not exist; yet crimes which had made a great deal of noise upon the part of peaceable citizens of Mexican origin, traveling on the road—the [illegible] of hostility [illegible] in many of the surrounding counties against all citizens of Mexican origin, and that [illegible] imminent danger of retaliatory attacks from them, which if [illegible] commenced, must inevitably lead to a civil war of [illegible]. Under these circumstances, I felt it [illegible] my duty to promptly [illegible], to preserve the peace, until the excitement caused by these occurrences to cool down, and until you could have an opportunity to enact such laws as would prevent similar outrages.

I therefore called out a company of Militia, consisting of seventy-eight men, officers and privates, and stationed them

[illegible] that road, with orders to give protection to all trains of merchandize passing up or down, and to all the civil authorities in preserving the peace, if called on for that purpose.

It will be useless to repeat the causes assigned by these [illegible] for these assaults, because in an organized country, having a regular system of laws and courts for the administration, there never can be any justification for such lawless outlaws to trespass upon the persons and property of any class of citizens.

We have a large population of Mexican origin in our western [illegible], many of whom are highly educated, and have [illegible] to this country in our days of trial. Unless there are some bad men to be found in this class of citizens, the large mass of them are as orderly and law abiding as any in the State; they pay their taxes cheerfully to all the [illegible] levied on them, and are entitled to the protection of our laws in any lawful employment they may choose to pursue.

Such occurrences as these are calculated to injure our reputation abroad, and to destroy all confidence in the ability of our State to give protection to life and property. If they are allowed to be repeated with impunity, they will ultimately suspend all intercourse between this country and Mexico, and will certainly lead to acts of retaliation upon citizens of the United States in that country; indeed, they have already attracted the attention of the Government of Mexico, and have [illegible] the [illegible] of a remonstrance through her Minister [illegible] which has been communicated to this [illegible]

Our present laws are fully adequate for the protection of personal property and for the prevention of such occurrences [illegible] when the officers and citizens of a county are active

in the enforcement of them, but where they are indifferent, and make no effort to enforce them, they are powerless.

Some remedy must be devised for this state of things, and the only one that occurs to me, is to punish all who engage in such combinations, or aid or assist in such assaults, by imprisonment in the State Penitentiary, and to give jurisdiction to the grand juries, officers and courts of any county in the vicinity, where complaint may be made, and where an impartial trial can be had, to arrest, indict and try the parties charged.

The company of Militia, before mentioned, were enrolled for sixty days, unless sooner discharged; their time will expire about the first of December next. They volunteered with the expectation, that they would receive the same pay and emoluments as mounted troops in the service of the United States. A contract was made with a merchant of San Antonio to furnish them subsistence and forage on the faith of the State.

This matter is now submitted to your consideration, with a desire that you will give it a careful investigation, and with a full confidence that you will make provision for the payment of the company, and the contractor who has supplied them.

E. M. PEASE.

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS.

THE STATE OF TEXAS, }
COUNTY OF BEXAR. }

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned authority, C. G. Edwards, of the State and county aforesaid, who being duly sworn on oath said:

He was about seven miles west from Goliad on the Cavaza on the road from San Antonio to Lavaca, on the last of July, about 12 o'clock at night, sleeping under a Mexican cart loaded with dry goods; as I was awaked by firing of guns, and in the act of getting up was shot in the breast and fell immediately senseless. About an hour afterwards I came to my senses, and everything was still alone. I found two Mexicans of my company also slightly wounded. I had one ball entered the left breast and came out ½ inch of the back bone, and one two inches above the left knee, and the third two inches below the left knee. This occurred in Goliad county by parties and persons unknown to me. C. G. EDWARDS.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 17th day of September, 1857. JAMES GROSS, J. P. B. C.

THE STATE OF TEXAS, }
COUNTY OF BEXAR. }

Before me, James Gross, an acting Justice of the Peace in

[illegible] the county and State [illegible] Nicano Valdez, who upon oath, says:

That on Sat[illegible] by the 12th of September, A. D. 1857, [illegible] upon the public highway (from Port Lavaca to San An[illegible]) in the county of Kerr, and State of Texas, about [illegible] leagues from Helena, in said county, about noon, he was [illegible] by a body of men numbering about [illegible] armed with rifles, shot guns and six-shooters—some of the [illegible] with masks and others had their faces blacked. All of them [illegible] disguised. Deponent further states that he is a citizen of the county of Bexar and State of Texas; that he was [illegible] with some twelve others, was pursuing their [illegible] peaceably, when they were charged upon with [illegible] Diego, a citizen of the county last aforesaid, [illegible] his fellow-countrymen, was shot dead on the spot, by the stealing party; receiving about fourteen balls. Affiant received a ball in his left shoulder, breaking the bone there. Deponent further states that his brother, Esteban Valdez, received the [illegible] ball and one from a shot gun; and Mariano Valdez, his brother, received three wounds. Deponent further states that he recognized four of the horses in the party that attacked him, and he says the same horses will be found in Helena, or have been there. Deponent further states that the [illegible] U. S. Government [illegible]

NICANO VALDEZ

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 17th September 1857.

JAMES GROSS,
Justice of the Peace, Bexar County.

At the same time and place came Esteban Val-

and Martiniano Valdez, who upon oath says that the facts set forth in the above affidavit are true.

MARTINIANO VALDEZ,
ESTEVAN VALDEZ

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 17th Sept., 1857.

JAMES GROSS, J. P. B. C.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, 24th Oct., 1857.

To His Excellency, E. M. Pease,
Governor of Texas, Austin,

SIR:—I have the honor to enclose herewith copies of two letters from General Rosas, the Minister of the Mexican Republic, of the 14th and 19th instants, together with copy of the enclosures accompanying the letter.

These letters purport to disclose cruelties received from a band of Texan guards, by which Mexicans have been expelled by persecution, violence, expulsion, and even murder, which is alleged to be visited against peaceable Mexican citizens resorting to Texas in the prosecution of their lawful business.

The enclosures consist of a letter from a Mexican merchant, [illegible] entitled "La Bandera Americana" of Brownsville, says that in some of the interior counties of Texas "cruelty and injustice are shown to Mexicans"—that in Wilson county, the citizens have passed resolutions against allowing Mexicans to travel through the country without a passport from an American, and that in Goliad some Mexicans have been killed for driving their carts over the public highway.

I need not inform your Excellency that the best good will of

of these outrages is a glaring violation of the rights guaranteed to these people both by law and treaty. I do not doubt that prompt and stringent measures have been adopted to discover the truth, and, so far as the facts demanded it, to bring the perpetrators to trial and punishment. I have expressed to General Robles my entire confidence that your Excellency's best efforts would be exerted for the protection of those who are exposed to the indignities and maltreatment described; and I beg that such an investigation may be made as will enable you to communicate to this Department the exact nature of the evils complained of, so that in its relations with Mexico the Government of the United States may be fully informed upon a subject which is likely to be productive of unpleasant consequences. I have the honor to be,

Your Excellency's ob't. serv't.,

LEWIS CASS.

MEXICAN LEGATION
IN WASHINGTON.

NEW YORK, October 14th, 1857.

The undersigned, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Mexican Republic, regrets the necessity of addressing the Honorable Secretary of State to inform him in reference to certain facts, which, as it is asserted, have taken place in the State of Texas.

So extraordinary and atrocious are those facts, that the undersigned would deny them credence, were it not that the frontier authorities of Mexico have officially reported on them.

It is averred that in the neighborhood of San Antonio de Bexar, in said State of Texas, committees of armed men have been organized for the exclusive purpose of hunting down

Mexicans on the highway, spoiling them of their property and putting them to death. It is stated moreover, that the number of victims is rising of seventy-five; whilst it is also affirmed that from the town of San Antonio de Bexar, the residents of Mexican origin have been expelled, living there in a peaceable manner, under the protection of the laws of the United States and of the treaties subsisting between the two governments.

Sundry families, the victims of these unheard of persecutions, had commenced reaching the Mexican territory in utter destitution and after suffering the hardships of a weary march on foot, compulsorily undertaken for the salvation of their lives. These families have been forced to abandon all the interests which they had at stake.

Up to their arrival, the Mexican authorities had refused to yield belief to the rumors, theretofore circulating on the subject. For himself, the undersigned has received no statement as to the origin of such outrages.

In the act of bringing them to the knowledge of the Government of the United States, the undersigned will refrain from making any observations. To indulge in any such, were to offer an insult to the government and to the people of the United States. The undersigned is convinced that such facts will have been learned, with indignation, on the part of General Cass and of all the worthy members of the Administration, and that it will, by every means, proceed to investigate the truth, to apply the proper corrective, and take all such measures as are demanded by justice, the law of nations and the honor of the United States.

The undersigned avails himself of this occasion to tender to General Cass renewed assurances of his high consideration.

MANUEL ROBLES y PEZUELA.

Hon. LEWIS CASS, Sec. of State of the U. S., &c.

[*Translation.*]

MEXICAN LEGATION IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.
NEW YORK, Oct. 10, 1857.

[illegible] undersigned, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Mexican Republic, begs to the honorable Secretary of State of the United States, in reference to the outrages committed, in the State of Texas, against Mexican citizens and Americans of Mexican origin, [illegible] which has [illegible] special instructions from his Government.

The undersigned does so in the hope that, in view of his note of [illegible] the Government of the United States will have [illegible] directed an investigation of the facts and take other [illegible] measures. [illegible] to the [illegible] which [illegible] and public [illegible], and that [illegible] from the *Democrat* [illegible] of the [illegible] published in Brownsville, which the undersigned [illegible] dealing with [illegible] to make [illegible] outrages.

[illegible] against [illegible] the Mexican [illegible] of State, the undersigned [illegible] the good faith [illegible] of the United States, and [illegible] the [illegible] fulfil [illegible] from [illegible] and [illegible].

The undersigned has the honor of [illegible] to the Hon. [illegible] the assurance of his very [illegible].

MANUEL ROBLES Y PEZUELA

To the Hon. L. C. [illegible], Secretary of State.

[*Translation—From "La Bandera Americana."*]

BRAZORIA, Sep. 2, 1857

The Mexican banditti are carrying on from the Rio Grande and the Nueces into the interior of Texas, for a while. There is no redress to this. In some of the inland counties, the ignorant brutes actually maltreat the poor Mexicans, though they are live the breed which they cut at the head of their countrymen. The citizens of Uvalde county have passed resolutions, or rather adopted "resolutions," prohibiting Mexicans from traveling through the county without previously procuring a passport from some American! Is it that they will be murdered for presuming to drive their mules over the prairies of Texas! Which acts are consistent with civilization? The Mexicans are the Americans, which is the superiority? The rebels argue as follows, and it is to find that the chiefs of our countrymen view the matter under the same light, and are determined that it shall not be endured."

AGGRESSION UPON MEXICANS.

From the San Antonio Ledger we translate the following:

"The constitution of the State does not discriminate between citizens. The Mexican citizen, however humble, has as much right to the protection of the laws, security of life and property, under our laws as any other.

"We now come to the "resolution;" it seems that we have an indirect allusion to a class of our citizens, (the Mexicans) who are esteemed by many other for their respect for the laws and their obedience to them. To expel them, like slaves, to carry a pass in their pocket, is repugnant to our notions of constitutional liberty."

These observations look to a "resolution," adopted by the inhabitants of the county of Uvalde, not far from Bejar, by which they exclude forever from said county "all Mexicans;" prohibiting their traveling through said county, unless they shall be the bearers of passes signed by some American.

Like outrages against the Mexicans are of common perpetration in the various counties of the State of Texas, and this, too, in guilty violation of its constitution and laws, and especially in infringement of the treaties of peace existing between the two countries. It calls up all our indignation to witness such outrages, tolerated by the constituted authorities.

American citizens are respected in the Mexican Republic. No one disturbs them in violation of law. Whenever they apply for protection to the authority, it is extended to them; and we defy the allegation of any outrage, such as that which we quote, committed against the Americans.

We also learn, through the Texan papers, that sundry Mexican drivers have been killed, and their "trains" destroyed, between Bejar and El Puerto. We are satisfied that the Courts of Justice will punish the murderers: but the proscription and the expulsion of the Mexicans, and their degradation to the level of "negroes," are outrages, which will pass unamerced, unless the Government of the United States shall actively interfere to avoid its recurrence.

We solemnly invoke the attention of the General Government to make a seasonable reclamation against the abuse, and ward off the serious consequences, which will inevitably ensue, if our countrymen shall continue to be so infamously mobbed and insulted."

("El Pueblo" of Camargo, Mexico.)